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SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Sir, I see from the statement placed on the table of the House that so many tractors have been exempted from the payment of (tax under) Motor Vehicles Taxation Act and no tractor in the South Arcot district has been exempted from payment of such tax. May I know the reason for this and also the purpose for which the other tractors in the other districts have been used and why even though there were a large number of applications for exemptions, no exemption has been granted in the South Arcot distrct?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, the statement itself contains the answer. From the "double asterisk" mark, it will be seen that 120 cases of tractor-trailer units were checked and found plying without payment of tax and fitness certificates and that prompt action is being taken to realize the tax through prosecution. That is why there are no cases in South Arcot district.

But, Sir, I want to add some information which will be of interest to the House. The Government have now decided that in respect of agriculturists who carry their own produce to the markets the exemption from tax may be given. Until now, if tractors, were used only for agricultural purposes, like ploughing and other field operations, they were exempted from tax. The Government have reconsidered the whole question and have decided that if the agriculturist carries his own produce to the market that should also be exempt from tax. Then there are some cases in which they carry other people's goods also, and in those cases the Government have decided that if the trailer is used along with the tractor, the tax will be reduced to one-third of the present rates.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR: Sir, what happens to the agriculturists who carry their own goods and put the vehicle on the road in addition to its being used for ploughing?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: They will be exempted. That is the new order which we have passed provided, I insist, it is their own goods.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Does it mean that all the 120 cases relate to South Arcot?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: That is my information.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR: What happens to owners who have already paid the tax? Will they get any rebate?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, this will come into operation from 1st January 1966.

Buses with trailers

* 238 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to attach trailers to State Transport buses in Madras City?

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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : A trailer bus is operating between Adyar and Parrys Corner from 22nd October 1965 on an experimental basis.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Is there any proposal to introduce such buses in other routes?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, we are watching the working, the collection, the manoeuvreability of the vehicles and other factors. A decision will be taken after examination of these things. In any event, we want to try in one or more routes before taking a final decision, and the next trailer bus will be introduced in Poonamallee High Road.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, will the Government take into consideration the great hardship that will be caused to the general public and general traffic by the introduction of these buses, because already the State Transport buses are driven very rashly by the drivers? Not only are the public aware of it, but the Police also know this.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, is it then the hon. Members suggestion that the trailer buses should not be introduced?

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, the present drivers cannot drive safely and in the interest of the general public. These need not be introduced now.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, the hon. Member is judging before even trying the experiment.

Price of a standard measure of rice

* 239 *Q.*—SRI M. SANKARALINGAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state the price of a standard measure of rice in the open market (i) at the time of introduction of food control by the Government; and (ii) after its introduction?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (i) The price of rice in the open market at *the time of introduction of food control* in the Madras State ranged from 62 Paise to 79 Paise per litre.

(ii) The price after *introduction of food control* in the Madras State ranged from 60 Paise to 72 Paise per litre.

Supply of Milk to the Madhavaram Milk Project by Co-operative Societies

* 240 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state the number of Co-operative Societies that supply milk to the Madhavaram Milk Project in the districts of Chingleput, North Arcot and South Arcot ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : A paper [a] is placed on the Table of the House.

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 397-378.